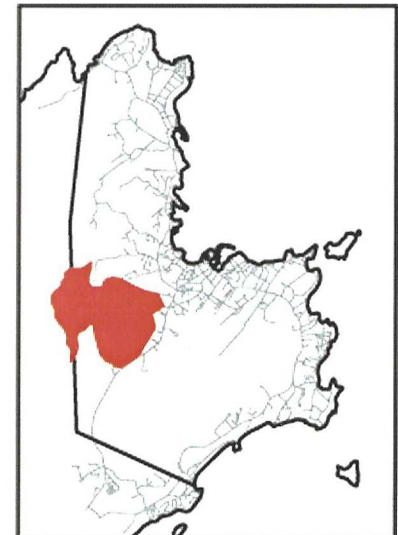


Protecting Rockport's Mill Brook Watershed



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rockport Water Filtration Plant
978 546-6992

Rockport Police Department
978 546-3993

Rockport Board of Health
978 546-3701

Rockport Department of Public Works
Call for Hazardous Waste Pick-up Day
978 546-3525

INFORMATIVE WEB SITES

www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hproduct.htm

www.mass.gov/dep/brp/

www.epa.gov/safewater/

FOR A COPY OF THE RECENT MILL BROOK WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN:

www.town.rockport.ma.us/



**Rockport Watershed Protection
Committee and Department of
Public Works**

*Prepared with funds from the
Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection*

Where Does Rockport Get Its Drinking Water?

Rockport's drinking water comes from surface water supplies and from one well field located in the Mill Brook watershed. The Mill Brook well field at the end of Apple Cart Rd., three wells located next to Mill Brook and the pump house, and the Mill Brook watershed are depicted on the Mill Brook Watershed Map on the other side of this brochure.

The Mill Brook well field provides almost 20% of the drinking water that is used by Rockport residents. Although this water is treated before it comes into your home, it is important that the source water be as clean as possible to reduce treatment costs and to keep out contaminants that are difficult to treat.

The Mill Brook watershed wells are quite shallow, only about 20-25 feet underground, so they are particularly vulnerable to contamination. Loop Pond, a surface water body, is also located in the Mill Brook watershed (see the map). It can be used to augment Rockport's water supply during water emergencies and must be protected from contamination and degradation.

As a resident of Rockport or a visitor to town, you play an important role in protecting this water supply. Please read this brochure to learn about the Mill Brook watershed and what you can do to protect it.

How Does Water Get from Mill Brook to Your Home?

The wells in the Mill Brook watershed produce about 43 million gallons of water each year. These wells provide three months worth of water supply for the Town of Rockport.

When water is pumped from the Mill Brook wells, it is conveyed either directly to the water filtration plant, or it may be held in Cape Pond before being treated and used. Rockport's drinking water is processed at the water filtration plant through treatment facilities employing a variety of treatment technologies. Then it goes to households and businesses in Rockport to drink and to use for washing and other purposes.

How Can You Help Protect the Mill Brook Watershed Wells and Rockport's Water Supply?

When You Are Walking in the Mill Brook Watershed

- ✓ Please take plastic bags to carry away your pet's waste. Please dispose of it in your own household bathroom or garbage.
- ✓ Notice signs of oil or other contaminants in Loop Pond or elsewhere on the trails in the area. If you suspect such contaminants, please report it to Rockport Water Treatment Plant (number on back of brochure).
- ✓ If you observe any signs of contaminants on the MBTA tracks, call the Rockport Water Treatment Plant.
- ✓ Observe any signs of dumping of any kind and report it to the Rockport Police.

When You Are in Your House

If you have a septic system serving your house, whatever you put down your drain can end up in the Mill Brook wells.

- ✓ Never put household hazardous waste down your house drain and into your septic system.
- ✓ If you have a septic system, make sure it is in working order and there is no odor or seepage on the surface. If there is, please report it to the Rockport Board of Health and contact someone to evaluate your system.
- ✓ Maintain your septic system in good order; have it inspected regularly, at least once every 3-5 years, unless there is an evident problem.
- ✓ Read labels and try to replace hazardous materials in your home with safer products.
- ✓ Improve how you store your home heating

fuel by building a 6" concrete apron under the fuel oil tank to prevent movement of spilled fuel oil, after consultation with the Rockport Fire Department.

When You Are in Your Yard

Your garage and shed may store hazardous wastes that should not get into the water supply. These hazardous wastes may include oil-based paints; roofing material; gas and oil for lawn-mowers, cars and boats; fertilizers and pesticides for your lawn and garden; and other similar products.

- ✓ Avoid changing automotive oil in your yard. Even though you are careful, some may spill from the containers you use to recycle the oil.
- ✓ Take any excess oil to a hazardous waste pick-up day - do not pour them on the ground or down a street drain.
- ✓ Apply lawn and garden fertilizer and pesticides sparingly. Never apply more than recommended and never pour excess on the ground or into street drains. Save any excess for a hazardous waste pick-up day.
- ✓ Look for fluid stains on your driveway that might indicate that your car or other equipment may be leaking oil, and repair leaks quickly.
- ✓ Avoid adding any more "impervious" surfaces to your yard, such as paving. The water in the wells comes from infiltration from the wooded areas and all the yards within the Mill Brook watershed.
- ✓ Do not store automobiles or other vehicles in your yard that are not maintained; they may leak fluids without your notice.